

MUSCICAPA AQUATICA GRIMWOODI, new race.

Description.—The upper-parts are dark brown, differing at most from those of *M. a. lualabae* and *M. a. ruandae* by a faintly greyer tinge. The lower surface looks much more whitish than in either of those races, for a breast-band is scarcely more evident than in *M. a. lualabae*, and lower breast, flanks, and under tail-coverts show scarcely any wash of grey or brownish. In size, moreover, this new race exceeds *M. a. lualabae* very markedly, for two males have wings 68, 71 mm. long, tails 54, 57 mm., culmen from base 16, 17 mm.

Type.—Male adult, Suye Lake (lat. 14° 25' S., long. 27° 35' E.), Northern Rhodesia, 26th June, 1951. Collector's number 618, AMNH. No. 748,410.

Distribution.—Thus far known only from the Lukanga Swamps. It would seem unlikely that this race could occur at Lake Bangweulu, but it should certainly be looked for at any other suitable locality in the Kafue River drainage.

Remarks.—It is interesting to note that this southernmost race is of much the same size as *M. a. aquatica*, its counterpart to the north of the equator. Between them, in the lowlands, the races *M. a. infulata* and *M. a. lualabae* are both of smaller size. But the largest representatives of the species, referable to *M. a. ruandae*, are found on highlands lying mainly within the three degrees just south of the equator. Four examples from the northwest side of Lake Tanganyika and the Ruzizi Valley, while agreeing with *M. a. ruandae* in colour, have wings only 68-71 mm. long. On the whole, pigmentation is heaviest near the equator, though it cannot be said to vary exactly with latitude.

The American Museum is grateful to Mr. Grimwood for the gift of the type specimen.

Change of Names among Sunbirds and a Woodpecker.

The MARQUIS HACHISUKA sent the following:—

According to the modern classification the following changes are required. For welcome help in the following matter I am much indebted to Mr. H. G. Deignan of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington who kindly looked into nomenclatorial problems which I was unable to settle in Japan.

(1) As early as 1912, Oberholser (*Smiths. Misc. Coll.*, 60, no. 7, p. 18, footnote) explains that *Nectarinia pectoralis* Horsfield (*Trans. Linn. Soc.*, 13, pt. 1, p. 167, May, 1821, from Java) is pre-occupied by *Cinnyris pectoralis* Vieillot (*Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat.*, 31, p. 497, 1819) which is a synonym of *Cinnyris afra* of Cape Province. The next oldest name is *Nectarinia eximia* Temminck (Temminck and Laugier, *Pl. Col. d'Ois.*, livr. 23, pl. 138, figs. 1 & 2, June 1822, from Java) but this is an exact homonym of Horsfield's' (*Nectarinia eximia* (Horsfield), *Trans. Linn. Soc.*, 13, pt. 1, p. 168, 1821, from Java)

and never been usable. He recommends *Cinnyris ornatus* (Lesson) (*Dict. Sci. Nat.*, 1, p. 15, 1827, for same as *N. eximia* by Temminck: Java) to stand for *Nectarinia pectoralis* (Horsfield). Oberholser's proposal was followed by Kuroda (*Leptocoma jugularis ornata* (Lesson), *Bds. Is. Java*, p. 98, 1933) but not by several others presumably because if *Nectarinia* and *Cinnyris* are separated Horsfield's *N. pectoralis* is not going to become invalidated. The modern trend of classification is to unite the above two genera under *Nectarinia*, therefore, *Nectarinia jugularis ornata* (Lesson) must be used for *Crytostomus pectoralis* (Horsfield) by Mathews (*Syst. Av. Australas.* Pt. II, p. 732, 1930), *Leptocoma jugularis pectoralis* (Horsfield) by Chasen (*Handl. Malays. Bds.*, p. 227, 1935) and *Nectarinia jugularis pectoralis* by Delacour (*Bds. Malays.*, p. 312, 1947).

(2) *Cinnyris sericeus* (Lesson) (*Dict. Sci. Nat.*, 1, p. 21, 1827, from Dorey (now Manokwari), New Guinea) is preoccupied by *C. [erthia] sericea* (Bechstein) (*Allgem. Uebers. Vög.*, 4, pt. 1, p. 194, pl. 38, fig. 1, 1811). For Lesson's *C. sericeus*, *Cinnyris aspasia* Lesson and Garnot (*Voy. "Coquille,"* liv. 7 pl. 30, fig. 4, June 21, 1828, from Dorey) must stand.

(3) *Dendrocops* (Malherbe) is now united to *Picoides*; therefore *Picoides major tenuirostris* (Buturlin) (*Dendrocopus major tenuirostris* (Buturlin), *Ibis*, p. 412, 1906, from Caucasus) is preoccupied by *Picoides arcticus tenuirostris* (Bangs), 1900. For Buturlin's *P. m. tenuirostris*, I propose *Picoides major kitsutsuki* nom. nov. The new racial name denotes the Woodpecker in Japanese.

On the type locality of *Parus ater britannicus* Sharpe & Dresser.

CAPTAIN C. H. B. GRANT sent the following:—

It would appear that an exact type locality has not been designated—

Parus britannicus Sharpe & Dresser was described in *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 4, 8, p. 437, 1871 and the type locality is given as England, with no indication of any type.

In *Bds. Europe*, 3, pp. 96-97, 1872, Sharpe & Dresser enumerate specimens which they place under this race, and the first they mention with a date as having been collected in or before 1871 are from Aboyne, Aberdeenshire, and Avington, Hampshire, which they apparently had before them when describing this race in 1871.

Avington, Hampshire is the first English dated locality, and should therefore be accepted as the type locality of *Parus ater britannicus* Sharpe & Dresser.

Notices.

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It is proposed to reduce the stock of the "Bulletin", but before this is done members are given an opportunity to acquire parts at 2/6 each. Application should be made to W. E. Glegg, Esq., Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts. No reply will be sent if parts are not available.

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Members who have back numbers of the "Bulletin" which they no longer require, are requested to kindly send them to W. E. Glegg, Esq., Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts.

DINNERS AND MEETINGS FOR 1952.

January 16th; February 20th; March 12th (at the Zoological Society, in conjunction with the B.O.U.); April 16th; May 21st; June 18th; October 15th; November 19th; December 17th.

SEPARATES.

Contributors who desire six free copies of their notes should state so on their MS., otherwise these will not be ordered.



Communications are not restricted to members of the British Ornithologists' Club, and contributions up to 1,500 words on taxonomy and related subjects will be considered from all who care to send them to The Editor, Capt. C. H. B. Grant, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7.

Communications relating to other matters should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, N. J. P. Wadley Esq., 14, Elm Place, London, S.W.7.

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

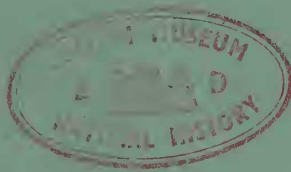


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PURCHASE

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The five-hundred and tenth meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W.7, on Wednesday, 20th February, 1952, following a dinner at 6.30 P.M.

Chairman : SIR PHILIP MANSON-BAHR.

Members present, 37, Guests, 6 ; Total, 43.

A new race of *Agapornis* from Angola.

Mrs. B. P. Hall exhibited and described the following :—

AGAPORNIS ROSEICOLLIS CATUMBELLA, new race.

Description.—Differs from *Agapornis roseicollis roseicollis* (Vieillot) in its brighter colouring. The red of the forehead and supercilium is slightly deeper in tone and the salmon pink of the cheeks and throat more heavily suffused with scarlet. The green of the mantle and underparts is deeper and brighter and the blue of the rump is frequently deeper and purer, less green-blue.

Distribution.—Benguella, Angola.

Type.—In the British Museum. Adult male, Catumbella, Benguella, Angola, 4th August, 1905, collected by Dr. W. J. Ansorge—B.M., reg. No. 1905.11.22.52.

Measurements of Type.—Wing 98, tail 50 mm.

Colours of soft parts of Type.—Iris dark brown ; bill, upper pinkish-white, shading into greenish-yellow, with dark green tip, lower greenish-yellow with dark green tip ; feet greenish-grey.

Remarks.—Seven males, four females and one unsexed specimen from Catumbella and Hanha River, near Lobita Bay, Benguella, were compared with two males, four females and one unsexed specimen of *Agapornis r. roseicollis* from different localities in South West Africa. Both series contain birds at different seasons of the year.

The polymorphic forms of *Chlorophoneus multicolor multicolor* (Gray), in the British Cameroons.

Dr. WILLIAM SERLE gave the following talk and exhibited specimens :—

A series of *Chlorophoneus multicolor* collected in the British Cameroons rain forest have slightly darker tails than *Chlorophoneus m. multicolor* (Gray), of Upper Guinea ; yet they belong to this race rather than to the black tailed *Chlorophoneus m. batesi* Sharpe, of Lower Guinea.

The usual habitat of this shrike is the forest canopy, and its food consists almost entirely of insects, which are sought amongst the foliage and smaller branches in the shaded interior of the tree tops. It is seldom seen in the open. By reason of these habits it is, despite its bright colours, inconspicuous, and would often pass unnoticed were it not for its characteristic call. Ordinarily it occurs in pairs, and the male is much more vocal than the female.

These facts are relevant to the statistical analysis of the series of *C. m. multicolor* exhibited tonight, which were all collected, at or near Kumba, Lat. 4° 40' N, Long. 9° 25' E. between 1947 and 1951.

Three colour phases are represented in this sample of seventy-five birds—an orange-breasted, a red-breasted, and a black-chested. They are divided thus :—

			Males.	Females.	Males and Females.
Orange-breasted	...	...	27	9	36
Red-breasted	...	...	27	5	32
Black-chested	...	...	7	—	7
			—	—	—
Total	...	...	61	14	75
			==	==	==

It will be noted that orange-breasted and red-breasted birds occur in about equal numbers, and that black-chested birds are much rarer and are all males.

I know of no series of *C. multicolor* of comparable size collected elsewhere, and for the present the relative frequency of the different colour phases of the species throughout its range is unknown. This much is known—that the orange and red-breasted phases are relatively common, and widely distributed ; that the black-chested phase is absolutely rare (only five examples are known apart from these here) and is restricted to Western Africa between Sierra Leone and the British Cameroons ; and that a fourth phase (not represented here) which is buff-breasted and is rare, is restricted to the eastern Belgian Congo border between Lat. 0° and 4° S.

The Kumba sample is I believe unselected in respect of colour and selected in respect of sex. In the field, the ear, not the eye, detects the bird, and as all three phases have the same call there is no bias towards collecting one or more of them in excess of their actual proportions. The male, being vocal, is usually seen first, and draws the fire of the collector, whilst the silent female tends to escape. Thus, though males and females occur in equal numbers—as is learnt by observation—males are more likely to be collected.

Field observation also reveals that there is no selective mating. On five occasions both birds of what seemed to be a pair were collected. These were all fully adult. In two cases a red-breasted male was mated to an orange-breasted female; in two cases an orange breasted male was mated to a red-breasted female; and in one case a black-chested yellow bellied male was mated to a red-breasted female.

Immature red-breasted and orange-breasted birds are less brightly coloured than the adults but are readily assigned to their colour phase. But the black chest of the black-chested mutant appears only in maturity. The seven birds here are all mature. In one of them there is a single old red feather visible on the chest. In the British Museum there is an immature male *C. m. multicolor*, red below, but with several new black feathers, some of them in sheath, intermixed with the red on the chin and throat.

The black-chested mutant may have the underparts below the chest either red or orange. In this series of seven, six are orange and one red. It was Stresemann who first surmised that the black-chested phase occurred only in the male. This series supports his surmise.

In the absence of records of the phenotypes of successive generations of *C. multicolor* one can only speculate on the nature of the genotypes. The red and the orange phases appear to be allelomorphs. A differently located gene or genes must control the black-chested phenotype. The character might be sex-linked due to a gene of low penetrance (seemingly always fully expressed) more likely to become manifest in the XX male, or it may be that the gene or genes controlling the melanistic mutant are not sexlinked but sex-limited, becoming manifest only in a male internal environment.

REFERENCES.

- STRESEMANN, E. 1924. Mutationsstudien. II. *Chlorophoneus nigrothorax* (Sharpe). Journ. f. Orn., 72; pp. 87-89.
- CHAPIN, JAMES P. 1947. Color variation in shrikes of the genus *Chlorophoneus*. Auk, 64; pp. 53-64.
- SERLE, WILLIAM 1950. A contribution to the ornithology of the British Cameroons, Ibis, 92; pp. 621-622.

Colour variation in *Malaconotus cruentus* (Lesson).

Dr. WILLIAM SERLE also gave the following talk and exhibited specimens:—

It has been customary to divide the fiery-breasted bush-shrike of Western Africa into two races, a western race *Malaconotus cruentus cruentus* (Lesson), ranging from Sierra Leone to the British Cameroons, and an eastern race *M. c. gabonensis* Shelley, ranging from French Cameroons to Gaboon, the latter race being distinguished by having the underparts redder and less yellow.

In the British Museum collection the twelve adult *M. cruentus* from Lower Guinea are on the average a little redder than the six adult *M. cruentus* from Upper Guinea; but certain individuals collected in Upper

Guinea have the supposed characters of *M. c. gabonensis*, and certain individuals collected in Lower Guinea have the supposed characters of *M. c. cruentus*. Upper and Lower Guinea birds are not to be distinguished by size.

The series exhibited tonight comprises forty-five adult birds all collected at Kumba, Lat. 4° 40' N., Long. 9° 25' E, in the British Cameroons between 1947 and 1951.

There are thirty-two males and thirteen females in this series. There is no apparent sexual dimorphism in colour or size.

Wings of 32 Males 110, 109, 111, 115, 112, 108, 112, 112, 106, 108, 108, 116, 108, 107, 111, 110, 116, 108, 113, 107, 113, 111, 108, 109, 112, 114, 112, 109, 113, 110, 111, 112 mm.

Wings of 13 Females, 109, 105, 110, 113, 107, 111, 106, 107, 107, 105, 107, 112, 108 m.m.

Bills of 32 Males, 31, 31, 31, 31, 31, 31, 32, 32, 31, 31, 33, 33, 31, 33, 32, 32, 32, 32, 33, 31, 31, 32, 33, 34, 33, 33, 33, 29, 29, 29, 31, 32 mm.

Bills of 13 Females, 30, 30 31, 30, 30, 30, 30, 29, 29, 29, 30, 31, 29 mm.

You will observe that there is a striking variation in the colouration of the underparts. At one end of the series are birds with chin, throat and breast strongly washed with crimson, and belly and under tail—coverts washed with vermilion. At the other end of the series are birds with orange yellow or yellow underparts showing a complete absence of scarlet or vermilion wash. Between are birds showing every intermediate shade of colouration.

Of these forty-five birds, fourteen are predominantly red below; eleven predominantly orange yellow or yellow; and twenty are intermediates. The dividing line between the three groups is of course a matter of opinion; the change of shade from individual to individual is almost imperceptible.

Had these specimens been collected throughout the range of the species, with red birds all from one area, and yellow birds all from another, linked by intermediates from geographically intermediate territory, the picture would have been the familiar one of continuous variation in a polytypic species.

But these widely varying specimens all come from the same locality, and it seems in the case of *Malaconotus cruentus* that we are dealing not with two races of a species, but rather with two colour phases.

The phases themselves are not clear cut (as they are for example, in *Chlorophoneus multicolor* (Gray)); there are many intermediates. This in itself is not inconsistent with a dimorphic hypothesis; it could result from the action of an incompletely dominant autosomal gene, the dominant and recessive homozygotes producing the red and yellow phenotypes, and the heterozygote the intermediate phenotype.

Man's Impact on British Bird Populations.

Mr. E. M. NICHOLSON gave the following talk:—

The study of changes in the populations of British birds, and in their distribution and habits, resulting from human activities is not only an important field for scientific study on its own merits, but is urgent for

two other reasons. These changes, which are of many different kinds—changes in absolute and relative numbers, in geographical distribution, in choice of habitat, in diet and in habits—are taking place so rapidly that unless they are fully and carefully recorded as they happen the opportunity of tracing them will have been lost permanently, and material essential to future ornithology will not be available. Also, a scientific assessment of these changes and the factors involved in them is the only possible foundation for scientific policies of protection and conservation, which are often spoken of but do not yet exist. The subject is however, so enormous that no more than an introduction to a discussion can be attempted on such an occasion as this.

Even what we think we know about it is fragmentary and distorted, and as it involves relations with mankind and touches upon deep emotional prejudices we must regard our own motives and standpoints as suspect, and must constantly check the validity of our assumptions and inferences. If a pest is a creature which, having become overabundant, spreads indiscriminately and does irreparable damage to other forms of life we must bear in mind that no species conforms to this definition better than Man himself, and that therefore when we speak of pests we are not enjoying the more or less objective bird's-eye view which we may hope to command elsewhere, but are ourselves taking a pest's-eye view of the activities of our fellow-pests. We therefore need to achieve the humility of imagining ourselves from the outset as approaching the problem like say a large self-conscious Crow with an uneasy conscience, and not as being entitled to assume our own scientific disinterestedness.

What are the nature and extent of the changes under review, what are their causes, and what part does man play in them? It is valuable first to consider what changes are not due to man's activities. Apart from very long-term evolutionary processes it appears that the only obvious, large, quick-acting factor which is currently giving rise to extensive changes of this character quite independently of human intervention is climate. Here fortunately, we have a useful check ready to hand. Climate is changing more significantly in some countries than in others, and we can also contrast changes discernible in thinly inhabited and undeveloped countries, such as large tracts of Scandinavia, with those occurring in humanly populous and developed areas with similar climates. As would be expected the most general result of climatic change during the present onset of warmer average temperatures, especially beyond the influence of maritime conditions, is for additional southern colonists to extend northwards, and for arctic and boreal species to retreat, and to diminish in the southern parts of their range. However in such cases as the spread of the Fulmar (which is almost certainly due to modern trawling; see Lockley and Marchant, *British Birds* 44, pp. 373-383, 1951), we find a contrary tendency for a northern species to spread southwards, the help given by the impact of civilisation in this case more than matching the climatic handicap which is implied in the fulmar's previous range. Another interesting test case is the originally Asiatic and Balkan dove *Streptopelia decaocto* (Frivaldszky) which is attached to human settlements and during the past few years has spectacularly extended its range north-westward in Europe as far as Holland and Scandinavia. This implies